QUESTIONS

WHAT IF *… my spouse was entitled to half my tax refund, but it was intercepted to pay my Public Defender fee?*

WHAT IF *… I thought I'd paid everything I owe the Public Defender but my lottery winnings still got intercepted?*

WHAT IF *… I have a disability that means I'm never going to be able to pay this fee?*

WHAT IF *…my probation is being revoked because I haven't paid my Public Defender fee and I don't have the money to pay it?*

WHAT IF *… I got charged twice for the same case?*

CALL AND ASK FOR HELP!

573-777-9944

Missouri Public Defender
Central Office

1000 W. Nifong,
Woodrail Centre, Building 7,
Suite 100
Columbia, MO 65203

PH: 573-777-9944
FX: 573-777-9976
www.publicdefender.mo.gov

MISSOURI PUBLIC DEFENDER

FEES FOR SERVICES

KNOW WHAT YOU OWE!

$

State law requires the Public Defender to collect a fee for its services from those able to contribute toward the cost of their defense.

Review this brochure carefully so you know exactly what, when, and how you will be expected to pay.

When your public defender completes the handling of your case, s/he is required by law to ask the court for a judgment in the amount shown on the fee schedule for your type of case. A judgment is a court order that you pay.

At the time of sentencing, you can ask the Judge to reduce or waive the Public Defender fee if you believe you will never be able to pay the fee amount.

The fact that you cannot NOW pay the fee is not enough to get a waiver. The Judge must look at whether you may EVENTUALLY be able to pay the fee.

The Judge can grant the judgment in the fee amount, change the amount (up or down), or deny the judgment altogether. The Judge can also make payment of the judgment a condition of your probation.

A judgment can show up in credit checks by potential employers or landlords as an unpaid debt owed the Public Defender.

FEE SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES	
Early Withdrawal	$25
Misdemeanor	$125
Probation Violation	$125
Felony	$375
Felony Sex Case	$500
Murder (Non-Death Penalty)	$750
SVP Commitment	$750
Death Penalty Murder	$1,500
Appeal	$375
Post-Conviction Relief	$375

If the Judge decides you have the ability to pay more towards the actual cost of your representation, the court can require you to pay a higher fee amount than those shown here.

YOU <u>CANNOT</u> BE DENIED A PUBLIC DEFENDER BECAUSE YOU ARE UNABLE TO PAY THE FEE IN FULL WHILE YOUR CASE IS PENDING.

HOW TO MAKE PAYMENTS

PAY ONLINE:

PUBLICDEFENDER.MO.GOV/PAYMENTS

SEND CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS TO:

MISSOURI PUBLIC DEFENDER
P.O. BOX 10282
COLUMBIA, MO 65205

Many clients share the same name. Always include your Social Security # to make sure your payments are credited to the right account. Please do not send cash.

If you owe on more than one case, payments will be credited to the oldest case first.

Missouri State income tax refunds and Missouri lottery winnings will be intercepted by the State of Missouri to pay off outstanding Public Defender fees.

Payments may be made in any amount. The Judge can also order payments be made through the Circuit Clerk's Office or order the fee amount be withheld from any bond being returned to you .